

Remarks

The Office Action dated July 28, 2003, has been noted and its contents carefully studied. It is noted that the time to respond to this Office Action was extended by one month by separate petition to October 28, 2003. In addition, it is noted that there is a new Assignee in this application. The Assignee is also a small entity and is entitled to the small entity fees, as paid herein, for the request for one month extension of time.

Turning to the objection to the drawings, it is noted that amendment has been made to the specification at various places to add numbers 107 and 204, specifically at pages 5, 6, and 9 in a manner which is self-evident and correspond to the Figures 1 and 2 drawings. With respect to the references in Figures 3A and 3B, enclosed is a drawing correction deleting reference to the noted numbers. Instead, an amendment has been made to the specification at page 8 and page 10 in which the discussion of two embodiments of the invention clearly corresponds to the flow charts shown in Figures 3A and 3B, in a manner clearly understood by those of ordinary skill in the art.

Turning to the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of claim 7 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention particularly with reference to the term "the group", it is noted that this claim has now been amended to refer the objected-to-item as "a group". With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of claim 8 as omitting an essential structural cooperative relationship, it is noted that this claim has also been amended to recite the graphical user interface component as having tools to allow a user to select a classification for each resource selectively identified by the resource locators of the list.

In light of the above amendment to the claims, it is now respectfully also urged that the claims are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in light of the cited references.

To further facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration, it is noted that in one aspect the invention is directed to a method for classifying information available on a computer network. In accordance with the method, a list of network resource locators is received. For each network resource locator of the list, the network resource locator is sent to a graphic user interface (GUI) component of a Web-coding station. A selection is then received from the Web-coding station,

with each selection representing a classification for the resource identified by the network resource locator. The selection is generated in a response to a user using tools of the GUI component. Thereafter, the classification is stored in a database in relation to the network resource locator.

In another aspect, the invention relates to a system for classifying information available on a computer network. The system includes a resource generator component that creates a list of network resource locators. A datastore stores classification information for a plurality of network resource locators. There is also provided a graphic user interface component having tools to allow user to select a classification for each resource respectively identified by the resource locators of the list. Still further, a classification processing component serves to receive the list of network resource locators from the resource generator component, to cause presentation of the network resource locator using the GUI component, and to receive a classification determined for each resource respectively identified by the network resource locators. The classification processor component also serves to store the classification in the datastore component.

It is respectfully urged that the invention as recited in its broadest aspects is not obvious in light of the cited references, as will become more clearly evident from the following detailed discussion of the references presented herein for the Examiner's kind consideration.

U.S. Patent No. 6,466,940 to Mills

U.S. Patent No. 6,466,940 to Mills (hereinafter "Mills") discloses a system for automatically creating databases containing industry, service, product and subject classification data, contact data, geographic location data and links to web pages from html, xml, or sgmi, encoded web pages posted on computer networks such as the Internet or intranets. The system of Mills is based on the realization that highly useful databases can be automatically built by successively interrogating web pages posted on a network if one or more html encoded geographic location data (CCG) phrases are included in the web pages. The CCG phrases, are phrases containing CCG data in a form which is directly accessible and identifiable.

In essence, Mills describes an automated method of spidering web pages to extract a range of industry/service/products/geographic data to enable a more structured index within a

database. The indexes then allow for more context searching from within the framework of the search engine. In contrast, it is noted that in one aspect Applicants' invention provides for receiving a list of network resource locators and for each resource network locator of the list sending the resource locator to a graphic user interface component over a Web-coding station and receiving a selection from the Web-coding station, with each selection representing a classification for the research identified by the said network resource locator. It is noted that as now amended, the claims require that the selection is generated in response to a user using tools of the GUI component. The classification is then stored in the database in relation to the resource locator. Similarly, the system claim provides components for achieving the heretofore discussed method. In this aspect there is nothing in Mills which teaches or suggests the concept of having a user generate the selection to the use of the GUI component.

Other aspects of the invention as recited in the claims are also not taught or suggested by Mills standing alone or the other references which are discussed hereafter.

U.S. Patent No. 6,513,033 to Trauring

U.S. Patent No. 6,513,033 to Trauring (hereinafter "Trauring") merely teaches a system that allows multiple users to correct or update existing online reference materials. The referenced materials could be an online Thesaurus or an online encyclopaedia. The system provides online mechanisms for readers of the online encyclopaedia to suggest changes to the content contained within the encyclopaedia in a dynamic fashion. The content can be in the form of definitions or words or descriptions or of objects or multimedia descriptions of objects. The changes to content suggested by users of the system are referred to as votes. This has nothing to do with Applicants' claimed invention which ties each network resource locator of a list of network list resource locators received to a classification system generated by a user using tools of a GUI component, wherein the classification is then stored in a database in relation to the resource locator.

U.S. Patent No. 5,400,248 to Chisolm

U.S. Patent No. 5,400,248 to Chisolm (hereinafter "Chisolm") merely teaches a voting system that allows voters to express and cast votes that are conditional on the votes of others of a

voting group. In this regard, it is noted that Chisolm has nothing to do with Applicants' claimed invention. Specifically, one in the art of classifying information available on a computer network would not look to a system such as that of Chisolm which merely relates to allowing voters to express and cast votes conditioned on the votes of others in a voting group. It is only with a hindsight interpretation of Chisolm that the Examiner has been able to arrive at the claimed invention. It is a well established law that such hindsight interpretation of the references after knowledge of the claimed invention is not permitted and for this reason, it is respectfully urged that Chisolm adds nothing to the previously discussed references, and that the claimed invention is clearly unobvious and patentable over the cited combination.

U.S. Patent No. 6,385,602 to Tso et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,385,602 to Tso et al. (hereinafter "Tso") merely describes a method for automatically classifying web pages into categories during a search process for the purposes of more accurately representing search results to a user. The system examines search results and dynamically groups the results into categories based on similar attributes found within each result. The final result are then presented to the user using category indicators.

In this regard, it is noted that the system of Tso provides for sorting of results within a search based on the frequency of the eligibility criteria. In contrast, Applicants' invention provides a classification system based on human selection. In this regard, to more clearly distinguish over the references, both Tso as well as other references which use voting, it is noted that the claims have now been amended to more properly refer to the term "selection" instead of "vote".

U.S. Patent No. 6,154,747 to Hunt

U.S. Patent No. 6,154,747 to Hunt. (hereinafter "Hunt") relates to a hash table implementation of an object repository. The only similarity between this patent and Applicants' claimed invention is that both describe storing of data in a database. In fact, Hunt is merely a description of common and established techniques of how to store data in a database and there is no other relationship to the claimed invention.

U.S. Patent No. 6,219,670 to Mocek et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,219,670 to Mocek et al. (hereinafter "Mocek") describes a method for searching across the database file and displaying the results on a monitor. The database is searched and the names within all tables of the database are displayed in the search result. The only apparent relevance of this patent to the claimed invention is the use of a graphical user interface, but fails to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the specific steps and elements of Applicants' claimed invention and system which employs a very detailed and specific classification technique.

U.S. Patent No. 6,381,597 to Lin

U.S. Patent No. 6,381,597 to Lin (hereinafter "Lin") merely discloses an electronic shopping agent which is capable of operating with vendor sites that have different formats. The system indexes shopping related information on an e-commerce site and is capable of operating across a wide variety of shopping sites. The information collected from each site is filtered and mapped to a standard format. The formatted information can then be displayed to the user as a result of a query. The list of URLs created by the shopping bot has nothing to do with Applicants' claimed resource generator. The resource generator of the invention is based on a system that sorts the list of network resource locators by the number of unique visitors to that particular locator as is clearly evident and explained in the specification. Lin's resource generator refers to a list of URLs created from e-commerce sites as a result of a keyword query by an end user. In fact, the Examiner clearly admits that, by stating in the Office Action that "Lin teaches shopping bot that automatically generates a list of web sites based on keywords entered by users", a feature having nothing to do with Applicants' claimed invention.

U.S. Patent No. 5,960,429 to Peercy et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,960,429 to Peercy et al. (hereinafter "Peercy") describes a method for locating web pages from a network server. A count of retrievals of the web pages is accumulated and the accumulated count and an address for the web page are stored in a record of the history of a history log at the server. This system sorts the list files by the number of accesses or "hits"

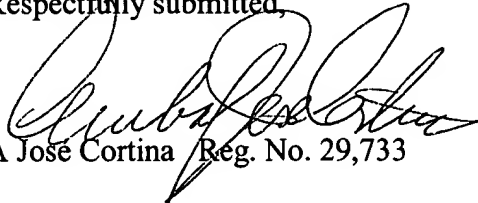
Application No. 09/606,683
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Reply to Office Action of July 28, 2003
Express Mail No. EV406651425US

within a log file accumulated. In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention sorts a list of URLs by the number of unique visitors, which is substantially different from the teachings of Peercy.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully urged that all of the claims are clearly patentable under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103 and 112 and that the application should be allowed. Nonetheless, should the Examiner still have comments, questions or suggestions of a nature necessary to expedite the prosecution of the application, or to place the case in condition for allowance, he is courteously requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures

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